

ALL TORE DOWN

ABRAHAM'S BLOODWYN PIG - Live

- 1. IT'S ONLY LOVE 3.02
- 2. ALL TORE DOWN 4.32
- 3. LIES 4.57
- 4. BILLY THE KID 6.27
- 5. I WONDER WHO 10.33
- 6. THE VICTIM 5.29
- 7. CAT'S SQUIRREL 17.02
- 8. SLOW DOWN 3.32
- 9. DEAD MAN'S HILL 11.08

Playing time: 67.52

Mike Summerland - bass/vocals Graham Walker - drums







PLACE: NEW YORK CITY TIME: FEBRUARY 1969 RADIO STATION: WNEW-FM/102.7

Late Friday afternoon's here in NYC, any self respecting Anglophile would have an ear (or two) to Scott Muni's "Things from England". Scott was the DJ who brought to us those gems from the UK that were not available here in the States. On one particular cold and snowy afternoon he played a song by a then unknown act whose debut album would be available sometime soon. "Cat's Squirrel" was the tune and as I sat there listening intently, I remember thinking to myself what an amazing and unusual guitarist. No doubt in my mind he was brilliant and talented, but best of all, he sounded and played like no other player. He incorporated his own style and feelings into each solo as if the song were built around him, not the band. Of course that young band was none other than JETHRO TULL.

For weeks after, every musician in my neighbourhood, every friend and every wanna-be were singing (and playing) the praises of one MICK ABRAHAMS. When the band finally debuted here in the States some six months later at the legendary FILLMORE EAST, to our major dismay, Mick Abrahams was not among the players. Why would such a great player quit after the release of his first album? Many years later with maturity, we all understood. But during the summer of 1970, we fans finally had the chance we had been waiting for, BLODWYN PIG, Mick's new outfit, would play the Fillmore. "See My Way" became an FM Radio staple and Mick's name immediately became synonymous with all the other guitar greats of the day.



It's been a long and rocky road for Mick and The Pig since those heady, early days. Blodwyn Pig cut only two albms (both top 10 hits) before Mick left top form "Wommet" and then "Mick Abrahams Band" in 1970 and '71 respectively. Mick reformed Blodwyn Pig briefly in 1974, with a line up which included long time friend and fellow Jethro Tull founder Clive Bunker, but the band disintegrated after a handful of gigs (one of which was for BBC Radio One's "In Concert" series).

Disillusioned with the music business, Mick turned his hand to a variety of jobs; lorry driver, life guard, financial consultant etc., but continued to play studio sessions and the occasional charity gig in and around his home town of Dunstable. It was at one of those gigs that I first met Mick, where I was to interview him for "A New Day", the Jethro Tull magazine. I confess I had half expected to see a once great guitarist merely going through the motions, having a blow just for 'the crack'. But no, here was a still great guitarist, playing with dazzling skill and artistry in a tiny pub with the joyous punters hanging from the rafters and watching in amazement! It was one hell of a performance and, it had to be said, a hell of a waste of falent!

During the course of our interview Mick indicated that he might be persuaded to get out and play more often, and that became a reality a year later, in 1988, when he was asked to put together a band for the opening of a new club in Luton. that band was Blodwyn Pig, with Andy Pyle from the original band and Clive Smith on sax. The audience loved it, the band loved it, and Blodwyn Pig was reborn.

Various changes in line up have ensued since then, recording two studio albums in the process. The four

piece featured on this, the first ever live Pig album, is the longest running in the band's history, and the benefits are there for all to hear. Recorded during their extensive 1993 tour, the set features songs from Mick's Jethro Tull and early Blodwyn Pig days, some from the recent studio albums, and some which pe-date even those early albums including "I Wonder Who", Mick's powerful tribute to his close friend and musical hero, the late, great Alexis Korner.

Many of those other guitar greats that Bob Laul remembers are forgotten by most of us now, while some have become safe, AOR superstars. Who knows where Mick might have been now had he chosen a more conventional musical career path? One thing's for sure - he is one of the great British Blues guitarists. What more can be said except enjoy this sice of Mick and The Blods in action. And to all you young guitarists out there...listen and learn!

David Rees, August 1994.

For inclusion on the Mick Abrahams and Blodwyn Pig information mailing list, send your name and address to:

BP Info, c/o David Rees, 75 Wren Way, Famborough, Hants, GU14 8TA, England.

Bob Laul, July 1994

1. IT'S ONLY LOVE 3.02

(Abrahams) Chrysalis Music Ltd.

2. ALL TORE DOWN 4.32

(Abrahams) AK Music

3: LIES 4.57
(Abrahams) Mick Abrahams

4. BILLY THE KID 6.27

(Trad. Arr. Abrahams) AK Music

5. I WONDER WHO 10.33 (Doyle) Copyright Control

6. THE VICTIM 5.29

(Rebennack/Pomus) Global Music Ltd./Warner Chappell Music Ltd.

7. CAT'S SQUIRREL 17.02

(Ross) Triamon Publishing

8. SLOW DOWN 3.32 (Williams) TRO Essex Music Ltd.

9. DEAD MAN'S HILL 11.08

(Abrahams) Mick Abrahams

Playing Time: 67.52 All timings are approximate

Mick Abrahams - vocals/guitars Dave Lennox - keyboards/vocals Mike Summerland - bass/vocals Graham Walker - drums

Mick Abrahams appears courtesy of Viceroy Music U.S.A. Worldwide representation: Serious Bob Promotion Bob Laul 250 West 85th Street Suite 11-D New York, N.Y. 10024

photos by Martin Webb



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Blodwyn Pig with Ian Anderson, Clive Bunker, Jackie Challoner & Gordon Murphy. Christmas gig, 1993.

SANCTUARY BLUES MASTRIE



MICK ABRAHAM'S BLOODWYN PIG

LIVE - ALL TORE DOWN

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